not have been a sub-conscious response on my part. Also, I was not especially close to her and she played no seminal role in my psychological development.

I related the dream to my father. He advised me to say nothing as the rest of my family might doubt my sanity. I have remained silent until this day.—*Metarie, LA.*

∞

HE TOUCHED ME

By Mary Bridgers Peed

In 1978, my beloved cousin, the Reverend Francis Smelt (a retired Methodist minister in the Florida conference), lay dying of emphysema. The summer was very hot as my husband, Paul, and I drove to Lakeland, Florida, from Georgia for our usual visit with him and his wife, Mary. We knew that this time the goodbye would be final.

Over the following months I was occupied with my son's college preparations. On the Saturday night before Francis, my son, left for college, I went to bed early and promptly slept.

I dreamed that I was in Florida, preparing to leave the Smelt's home for my cousin's funeral. At the service in the funeral chapel his widow dropped her gloves. I went back after the burial to retrieve them. While in the chapel there was a soft step behind me. To my utter amazement, there stood my cousin, smiling broadly with twinkling eyes behind his gold-rimmed glasses. He was dressed in his navy blue suit with a white shirt and light blue tie. Before I could react, he spoke gently and reassuringly, "Mary, I'm fine now. You don't have to worry about me any more." Then he vanished.

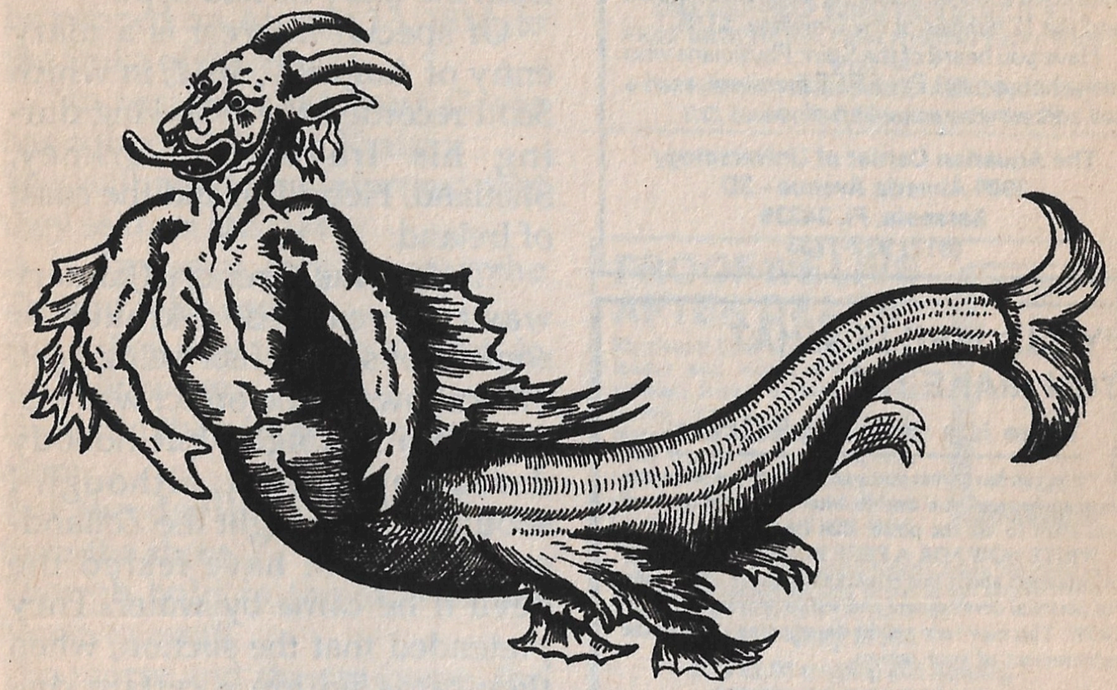
I woke suddenly and looked at the clock. It was a few minutes past midnight. Early the next morning the phone rang. His widow tearfully told me that he had died a few minutes after midnight.

When we went back that summer, she drove us by the funeral home and told me what he wore—exactly what I had seen in the dream.

What more proof did I need that his spirit still lived—and loved me?—*Fort Valley, GA.*

Mary Bridgers Peed

SIR WALTER SCOTT'S KRAKEN



Sir Walter debunked the sighting of a sea serpent—

Or did he?

By John Quin Ames

Best known as a poet and as the author of such popular novels as *Waverly, Ivanhoe, The Abbot* and *The Talisman,* Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) was also an avid collector of antiquities as well as a keen observer and chronicler of the lore, superstitions and customs of his beloved Scotland. A number of his works broach the occult and supernatural, either as a main subject or as a plot device for his novels. In 1830, near the end of his productive life, Scott published his *Letters on Demonology and Witchcraft*. This book presented Scott's observations and conclusions on these subjects after a lifetime of interest, study, investigation and reflection.

Upon Scott's death, a multi-volume biography of the renowned Scotsman was authored

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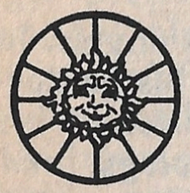

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by his son in law, John G. Lockhart (1794-1854).Called one of the great biographies in the English language, the work incorporated excerpts from Scott's correspondence as well as from the diary he had kept.

Of special interest is a diary entry of August 7, 1814, in which Scott recorded the following during his travels to Orkney, Shetland, Hebrides, and the coast of Ireland:

"There was a report (January was two years) of a kraken or some monstrous fish being seen off Scalloway. The object was visible for a fortnight, but nobody dared approach it, although I should have thought the Zetlanders would not have feared the devil if he came by water. They pretended that the suction, when they came within a certain distance, was so great as to endanger their boats. The object was described as resembling a vessel with her keel turned upmost in the sea, or a small ridge of rock or island. Mr. Scott thinks it might have been a vessel overset, or a large whale: if the latter, it seems odd they should not have known it, as whales are the intimate acquaintances of all Zetland sailors. Whatever it was, it disappeared after a heavy gale of wind, which seems to favour the idea that it was the wreck of a vessel." (1)

The "Mr. Scott" mentioned in the above passage refers not to Walter Scott, but to his identically surnamed host at the time.

Walter Scott made light of the story of the kraken in a postscript to a letter, written in verse, which he penned on August 13, 1814, to the Duke of Buccleuch:

"In respect that your Grace
has commissioned a Kraken,
You will please be informed that
they seldom are taken;
It is January two years, the
Zetland folks say,
Since they saw the last Kraken in
Scalloway bay;
He lay in the offing a fortnight or
more,
But the devil a Zetlander put
from the shore,
Though bold in the seas of the
North to assail
The morse and the sea-horse, the
grampus and whale.
If your Grace thinks I'm writing
the thing that is not,
You may ask at a namesake of
ours, Mr. Scott—
(He's not from our clan, though
his merits deserve it,
But springs, I'm informed, from
the Scotts of Scotstarvet;)
He questioned the folks who
beheld it with eyes,
But they differed confoundedly
as to its size.
For instance, the modest and dif-
fident swore
That it seemed like the keel of a

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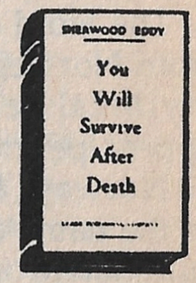
PROOF WE LIVE AFTER DEATH



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ship, and no more—
Those of eyesight more clear, or of a fancy more high,
Said it rose like an island 'twixt ocean and sky—
But all of the hulk had a steady opinion
That 'twas sure a *live* subject of Neptune's dominion—
And I think, my Lord Duke, your Grace hardly would wish,
To cumber your house, such a kettle of fish." (2)

The word "kraken" is derived from Norwegian and refers to a mythical sea monster said to appear periodically off the coast of Norway. The word was used as the name of the gigantic beast summoned up out of the ocean depths by Poseidon in the film *Clash of the Titans*.

In drawing his conclusion about the nature of the "kraken" sighted off of Scalloway, what Scott seems to have overlooked is the fact that if the object were indeed "the wreck of a vessel," it seems equally odd, to use Scott's own words, that the Shetland sailors "should not have known it," for if whales were the "intimate acquaintances of the sailors, then the same would undoubtedly have been equally true for vessels or the hulks of wrecks.

Whatever it was that the Shetland sailors had sighted and observed during that two-week period in January, 1812, it was something which had them both frightened and perplexed.

1) Lockhart, John G. Memoirs of Sir Walter Scott (Vols. I-X), Vol. 4, pp 216-217. Edinburgh. Adams & charles Black.
2) Ibid., Vol. 4, p. 376.

Coming soon!

UFO PARKING LOTS

By John Ellis Sech

People in Nashville, Tennessee, thought that city councilman George Darden was kidding when he proposed that the city set aside funds for the construction of a landing pad for UFOs, but Darden insists that he's very serious about this project.

While some people may be laughing at Darden for his scheme, it may turn out that the councilman's proposed landing pad—if it ever gets built—may be the first of many to appear across the country.

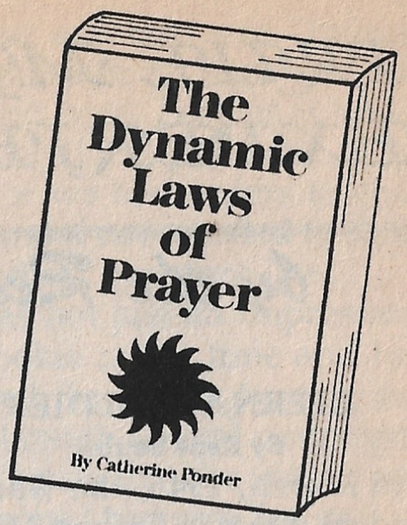
But rather than being used by UFOs, they may be used by American-made flying saucers.

Paul Moller, an engineer in Davis, California, has developed a flying saucer which may be in mass production by the mid-1990s. The craft, which is powered by 8 modified rotary snowmobile engines, will be able to sit up to four passengers and will be able to reach speeds of up to 400 mph.

A prototype has been built and flown. It rises straight up and lands by coming straight down.

CATHERINE PONDER'S

THE DYNAMIC LAWS OF PRAYER



This is an "uncommon" book on prayer. It states that "prayer is where the action is because prayer releases the highest form of energy." (This is a Revised Edition, formerly titled *Pray and Grow Rich*, and includes additional chapters, updated introductions and conclusions.)

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